

June 3, 2003

TO: FAMILY PACT PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: FAMILY PACT PROGRAM LETTER 03-05
CHLAMYDIA SCREENING

Chlamydia trachomatis is the most common reportable sexually transmitted infection (STI) and is a serious threat to reproductive capacity. Due to a variety of biological, immunological and behavioral factors chlamydia mainly infects young women. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends annual chlamydia screening for women 25 and younger. This letter is notification of an update in program policy about Chlamydia screening, a Clinical Practice Alert, and access to professional education resources.

Consistent with CDC recommendations, the Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care and Treatment) Program Standards will be updated to state:

- Chlamydia screening annually for **females 25 years of age and younger**.
(PPBI, *familyfact9* page 6)

Replacement pages for the program manual, Family PACT *Policies, Procedures and Billing Instructions* (PPBI), which includes the program standards, will be issued in a separate mailing in the near future.

Family PACT data demonstrates a statewide testing rate of only 52 percent among this age group during fiscal year 2001/2002. Conversely, Family PACT chlamydia testing rates among women over the age of 25 were 56 percent, an unacceptably high rate given the low prevalence of chlamydia in the older population.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html>

Family PACT clinicians are responsible for quality of care including the delivery of STI services consistent with recognized medical practice standards. The following resources, developed in collaboration with the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center (STD/HIV PTC), are available to assist you in fulfilling those responsibilities:

- “Clinical Practice Alert: Chlamydia Screening”
- “California STD Treatment Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents 2002”
- Internet-based STD Resources Sheet
- “Online Chlamydia Course” – California STD/HIV PTC
 - Discount available on one other STD/HIV training course
 - CMEs and CEUs available for all clinical courses
- “Sexually Transmitted Chlamydial Infections: A Primary Care Clinician’s Guide to Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention”
 - Available on the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Web site:
http://www.stdhivtraining.org/pdf/chlamydia_screen.pdf

Please share this program letter with all staff providing services to Family PACT clients. Family PACT Program resources, including the Clinical Practice Alerts, are available on the Family PACT Web site: <http://www.familypact.org>. Please address questions or comments to Janet N. Treat, P.H.N., M.N., Chief, Clinical Services Section, at (916) 654-0357.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Anna Ramírez, M.P.H., Chief
Office of Family Planning

Enclosures